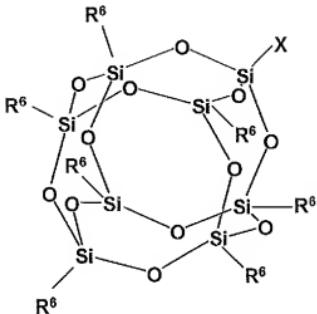


Remarks

Claims 23-25 and 32-43 are currently pending. Claim 23 has been amended to recite component (ii) as a silsesquioxane of the formula



wherein R⁶ is hydrogen or an alkyl or phenyl group optionally substituted by one or more primary or secondary amino groups, and X is -R³-NH₂ wherein R³ is an alkyl group. Support for this amendment can be found at, for example, pages 6-8 and 16 of the present application. No new matter has been added.

Restriction

Applicants hereby elect, with traverse, for continued prosecution Group I, Claims 23-26 and 30 drawn to a complex of an organoboron compound and a silsesquioxane containing an amino group. Applicants further elect triethylborane and aminopropylisooctyl-silsesquioxane as the species.

Claims 23-26 and 30 are readable on the selections above.

Applicants elect with traverse because simultaneous examination of the inventions does not impose an undue burden of examination on the Examiner.

If the restriction requirement is made final, Applicants reserve the right to continue prosecution of non-elected inventions in one or more continuing applications.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 23-26 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sonnenschein et al. (US 6,777,512) in view of Lichtenhan et al. (US 2003/0055193). Applicants traverse this rejection for the following reasons.

Sonnenschein et al. teach a trialkyl borane or alkyl cycloalkyl borane complexed with an amine, such as an amino siloxane. Although Sonnenschein et al. teach numerous amines and amino siloxanes, this publication does not teach or suggest amine silsesquioxanes. The Examiner has added Lichtenhan et al. to Sonnenschein et al. and urges that one of ordinary skill in the art would have incorporated the silsesquioxane generally taught in Lichtenhan et al. into the organoborane amine complex taught in Sonnenschein et al. for the purpose of improving thermal, mechanical and physical properties.

It has been held, when determining obviousness, one must evaluate the references not only for what they expressly teach, but also for what they fairly suggest. *See In re Baird*, 16 F.3d, 380 (Fed. Cir. 1994). Thus, although Sonnenschein et al. expressly teach trialkyl borane or alkyl cycloalkyl borane complexed with an amino siloxane and Lichtenhan et al. teach silsesquioxanes, their teachings do not fairly suggest the selection of the presently claimed complex. Rather, as noted above, a vast number of compounds are encompassed by the generic amine in Sonnenschein et al. Similarly, a vast number of silsesquioxanes are encompassed by the generic silsesquioxane in Lichtenhan et al. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art, when reading each publication as whole, would be subjected to randomly selecting from a potentially infinite number of combinations of amines and silsesquioxanes in order to arrive at the particular combination as presently claimed.

Nevertheless, Applicants have surprisingly found combining an organoborane with the presently claimed silsesquioxane species produces a complex that is air stable and can be used to effectively initialize the polymerizations of radically polymerizable monomers and oligomers. In particular, the presently claimed complex is especially effective for initializing the polymerization

of acrylate or methacrylate adhesives used in bonding low energy surface substrates. Neither publication cited above teaches or fairly suggests such a result. Applicants therefore respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn.

The Commissioner of Patents is hereby authorized to deduct any fee due in connection with the filing of this document from Huntsman Corporation Deposit Account No. 08-3442.

Respectfully Submitted,

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